

STRODE BILL IS AGAIN DISCUSSED

Senate Spends An Hour in Consideration of Proposed Important Measure.

BILLS CONTINUE TO FLOW IN

Measures of More or Less Importance Offered in Both Houses.

For an hour yesterday the Senate continued the discussion of the Strode bill permitting the Court of Appeals to review the judgment of any court of record in any action of law requiring the plaintiff to remit a part of recovery. The measure contemplates a sweeping change in the present system and is declared by its advocates to involve the question of equal rights before the courts as between individuals and corporations. It is one of several bills introduced in the present General Assembly affecting corporations, and has provoked one of the great legal battles of the session. The struggle is by no means over yet. The discussion began Friday and will be resumed again Monday, the bill having been temporarily passed by after an hour's talk yesterday.

Apart from this there was but little of widespread interest in either branch yesterday. New bills were introduced on both sides and a number of measures were passed. The Senate passed nine House bills. The House devoted the day entirely to uncontested matter.

THE SENATE.

Strode Bill Discussed With Much Animation for Hour or More.

After the usual preliminaries, including the presentation of new bills, resolutions and Mann law petitions, the Senate yesterday morning promptly resumed the discussion of the Strode bill providing that the judgment of a circuit or probate court or other court of record, in any action at law, requiring the plaintiff to remit any part of recovery, may be the subject of review by the Supreme Court of Appeals.

The debate was opened by Judge W. H. Mann, of Norfolk, chairman of the Committee for Courts of Justice, which reported the Strode bill favorably. The Norfolk senator has been systematically opposed to the measure, and in fighting it on the floor made a strong argument, declaring that the proposed change not only imposed a hardship upon the defendant and placed undue advantages on the side of the plaintiff, but revolutionized a great principle of law and reduced the jurisdiction of the judges to an appreciable extent.

"It seems to be a question," declared Judge Mann, "of whether or not the Virginia judges in controlling the verdicts of juries dispense justice with an even hand. My experience in the Virginia courts has been that the judges do dispense justice with an even hand. It has been argued here by the senators in favor of this bill that the poor man does not have a fair chance in the courts. I want to say right here that it is not the poor man who doesn't have a fair chance, but the rich man. If I wish to sue a poor man in a case in a Virginia court, I would much rather that I represented a poor man than a rich man, and that I was pleading for an individual and not a corporation."

This bill in effect removes from judges the right to place the plaintiff on terms when the verdict is excessive. It cuts into the jurisdiction and powers of the judges of Virginia, and gentlemen, when you strike at the judiciary, you strike at the very foundation stones on which the greatness of Virginia is based."

Several senators followed, including Mr. Machen and Mr. Thomas, favoring the Strode bill and in opposition. In the opinion of Mr. Thomas, it was a question of securing a "square deal" for everybody before the courts. The bill proposed to furnish a direct appeal to the Supreme Court for the plaintiff from the decision of the trial judge, reducing the amount the jury had allowed him. The judges were to have the right to review the verdicts of juries, the principles of justice required that they should not only have the power to reduce verdicts when excessive, but to raise them when insufficient. Yet not a single case was on record where a judge had ever increased a verdict.

"They have no power to do so," interposed Judge Mann.

"Then what sort of law is it," asked Mr. Thomas, "which sets the judge of the court up as a perfection of justice and then ties his hands so that he can administer justice in only one direction? I think this bill is in the line of the man's spirit to break down the barrier of oppression and wrong wherever they may exist, and I hope it will pass."

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Catarrhal Gastritis

"For two years I was in a very bad condition. I was treated by a number of eminent physicians for chronic catarrhal gastritis and dilatation of the stomach, and obtained no relief. I grew gradually worse, my breathing was so difficult at times that I thought I would die. My heart was in very bad condition from poor circulation and pressure of the dilated stomach. I decided it was only a matter of a very short time with me. I was advised to try Dr. Miles' Nerve and Heart Cure, and before I had finished taking one bottle of the medicine I felt like a new being. I took eight bottles of the medicine, and am entirely cured, for a matter of about \$8.00 in the face of two hundreds spent in the two years before without relief."

A. D. SLACK,
Master Mechanic of the I. & G. N. R. R., San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Miles' Nerve is sold by your druggist, who will guarantee that the first bottle will benefit. If it fails, he will refund your money.

Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

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House Bills Passed.

To amend and re-enact section 3255 of chapter 131 of the Code of Virginia.

To provide that a publication of the Code of Virginia, as amended to the adjournment of the General Assembly of 1934.

To amend and re-enact section 2022 of the Code of Virginia, 1887.

To amend and re-enact section 621 of the Code of Virginia, 1887.

To amend and re-enact section 193 of the Code.

To amend and re-enact section one to prevent the destruction of wild fowl in the waters of Back Bay.

To authorize and empower the Board of Supervisors of Surry county, Va., to contribute to a monument to the Confederate dead.

To authorize the Board of Supervisors of any county or council of any city or town to offer rewards for the arrest and conviction of criminals.

To authorize the several cities and towns of the Commonwealth to appoint officers and employees.

Bills Introduced.

By Senator Holt—To amend and re-enact subsection 2 of section 2600c of an act, approved May 14, 1903, relating to the preservation of certain useful birds and animals.

To amend and re-enact clause 32 of section 1166 of the code, when judge may continue directors trustees or appoint receivers to take charge of affairs for corporations which have ceased to exist.

By Senator Machen—Joint resolution proposing to amend section 110 of Article VII of the Constitution.

By Senator Gunter—To amend an act entitled "an act to amend and re-enact subsection 2 of section 2670a and section 2673 of the code, relating to the preservation of certain useful birds."

By Senator Chapman—To allow members of the General Assembly a continuance of right during the session of 1936.

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